

Round 1 Public Engagement Draft Guiding Themes

The *Coastal Mobility & Livability Study* (CMLS) will recommend improvements to mobility and livability within the City of Encinitas. The CMLS is comprised of three specialized studies:

1. Active Transportation Plan
2. Parking Study
3. Rail Corridor Vision Study

Round 1 of CMLS Public Engagement occurred from October through December 2016, and consisted of traditional in-person workshops, “pop-up” events at key locations around town, feedback sessions with commissions, committees, and community groups, and online activities featuring interactive mapping and commenting tools. The general purpose of Round 1 Public Engagement was to provide information about the project, and solicit public feedback on key issues of concern and priorities for improvement. This input will be used to inform development of draft corridor concepts, and other draft outputs from the various specialized studies.

The following Draft Guiding Themes emerged from the initial public engagement activities. For a complete understanding of the range of issues raised, please refer to the input documentation posted on the Coastal Mobility and Livability Working Group webpage, as part of the meeting packet for CMLWG Meeting #4 (<http://www.ci.encinitas.ca.us/index.aspx?page=529>).

Draft Guiding Themes have been grouped into the following categories:

- Rail Themes
- Active Transportation Themes
- Parking Themes
- Overarching Themes

However, it should be noted that because addressing mobility and livability involves a number of interrelated issues there is some overlap between themes.

Rail Themes

Increase East-West Connections

- Near-universal consensus for better east-west access to commercial areas, schools & beaches.

Mixed Opinions on At-Grade vs. Grade-Separated Crossings

- Some commenters preferred grade-separated undercrossings of the Rail Corridor because they offer more safety and less train noise. Others preferred at-grade crossings because they are less expensive and therefore can be implemented more quickly.
- Many commenters also preferred “trenching” the entire rail corridor or moving it to the I-5 corridor, but recognized this as more of long-term solution.

Achieve a Quieter Corridor

- Near-universal consensus to implement quiet-corridor improvements as soon as possible.

Enhance & Maintain Natural Aesthetic Character

- Emphasis on native landscaping, lagoon health, tree canopy, and the rail corridor’s natural features.

Do Not Fence the Rail Corridor

- If fencing is necessary, ensure it is the least visually intrusive.

Active Transportation Themes

Retain Parking

- Commenters felt that parking should not be sacrificed to accommodate bicycle lanes. They felt parking was already in short supply and more parking should be added.

Utilize NCTD Corridor for Public Access in Addition to Rail Uses

- Commenters suggested this land should be made available for pedestrian and bike circulation, trails, parks and other public linear space including more access points across the tracks, but without adding fencing.

Improve Highway 101 Corridor

- Some commenters felt that removing a lane will not work considering existing traffic, and shared lane markings will not work along this roadway either.
- As an alternative to 101, some commenters suggested alternative safer and less congested parallel routes, such as widening Vulcan or adding walkways or trails to it or the rail corridor.
- While some commenters suggested adding protected bicycle lanes, others felt that bicycle use should not be encouraged on Highway 101.
- Many commenters noted the lack of walkways, the desire to widen existing walkways and the need for additional crosswalks, as well as traffic calming in general along the corridor including the narrowing of traffic lanes.

Provide More Bike Lanes

- Bicycle lanes are important for north/south travel.
- More safe and frequent track crossings are needed for cyclists.

Provide a Shuttle System

- A looped shuttle system can help make the community more walkable and could help resolve some track crossing issues.

Parking Themes

Finding a Spot to Park

- Businesses, residents, and visitors alike do not wish to pay for parking, even if it made a spot readily available.
- Downtown Encinitas is agreed to be the most challenged parking environment.
- Finding a spot quickly, or an overall lack of parking, is a bigger issue than one's willingness to walk a distance to their destination.

Need More Parking for Businesses

- Most feel that they would patronize businesses more (or have their business patronized more) if parking were more readily available.
- Street parking is the most commonly used/sought after type, a point corroborated by the fact that the majority of employees park on the street, typically away from their business.

Reduce Parking Demand by Changing Travel Modes

- Driving trips (particularly drive-alone trips) are the most common means of accessing the Coastal Corridor.
- Safer facilities were overwhelmingly chosen as the most important thing that can be done to encourage more walking/biking to the Coastal Corridor.
- The idea of a shuttle connecting New Encinitas to the Coastal Corridor was very well received.

Overarching Themes

Improve All Aspects of Mobility

- In addition to specific suggestions regarding bike and pedestrian mobility, many commenters also noted the need to improve transit service and facilities (such as shade at bus stops), facilitate more electric vehicle use, and suggested a shuttle system with recommendations for specific shuttle route alignments.

Safer Travel

- Many commenters noted the need to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists, particularly with respect to safe routes to schools.
- Some commenters expressed a need for education regarding sharing the road.

Create a Vision That Reflects the Character of Individual Communities

- A unified vision for the corridor should also maintain and enhance individual community character.